

From the Land

WINTER/1984
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In an assemblage of conservation easements the Conservancy will protect nearly 1,000 acres of prime riparian habitat in Salisbury, Connecticut. Running for almost three miles, Moore Brook traverses a complex series of wetlands. Its carbonate soil conditions support rare plant, bird, and mammalian species and three community types. (See pp. 5-6.)

Photo by Alexander S. Gardner.

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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AT WORK

	Nationally	In Connecticut
Total projects	3,205	310
Total acres saved	2,060,901	14,183
Members	178,961	6,472
Corporate Associates	406	22

STATEWIDE ECOLOGICAL INVENTORY BEGINS

On January 6 at the Governor's office in Hartford, Alexander Gardner (Chapter Chairman), Dennis Wolkoff (TNC Regional Vice President), David Warren (Critical Areas Director), and I joined Governor William O'Neill in announcing the establishment of the Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base, a computer-assisted, comprehensive inventory of all of Connecticut's rare and endangered species and vanishing natural communities. The Data Base is a joint effort of the Conservancy and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), with partial support from the National Audubon Society.

Scientists from DEP's Natural Resources Center, where the Data Base is located, conduct field research and then rank Connecticut's known rare species and ecosystems according to how threatened they are. The results are a scientifically sound priority list and system of maps of those portions of the Connecticut landscape most acutely in need of protection.

The Connecticut Data Base is an integral part of the Conservancy's new Critical Areas Program. Said Alexander Gardner, "From the joint researches of DEP and

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WINTER/1984

Published for the members of
the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

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the Conservancy, a scientifically sound target list is emerging. With even greater confidence than before, we can assure our donors that their contributions are protecting the truly irreplaceable components of Connecticut's natural heritage."

The Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base is similar to those established by the Conservancy in 32 other states, including the other New England states. All such data bases—sometimes called heritage programs—speak the same computer language and use identical nomenclature to classify a state's "natural elements." Thus the financial resources of Connecticut's DEP, the Conservancy, and other conservation organizations will not be diverted to protecting natural elements already well protected elsewhere, unless, of course, biotic diversity is expressly called for to preserve a given resource.

In states where data bases have been operating for longer periods of time, the staff scientists often receive inquiries from developers, consultants, and government agencies. For example, highway builders seeking routes of minimum impact and utilities investigating prospective rights-of-way will usually undertake strenuous measures to avoid areas known to be environmentally sensitive. In other words the Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base will be used to mediate and resolve environmental conflicts *before* they can occur. Moreover, research contributed to such data bases has resulted in the de-listing of some species earlier thought to be near extinction. This program is consistent with the Conservancy's policy of working *with* the corporate and public sectors.

Besides its utility to the Critical Areas Program, the Conservancy foresees that the Data Base will be providing information for several other programs, including: the Connecticut Natural Areas Registry, a voluntary land protection program now being developed by The Nature Conservancy and DEP; the Natural Area Preserves System, by which important state-owned lands are given statutory protection; the State Rare and Endangered Species Program; the nascent efforts to develop a non-game protection plan for Connecticut; and the work of Connecticut's 82 independent land trusts, many of which are



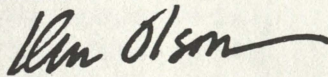
Discussing the Data Base are (clockwise from left) Governor William A. O'Neill, Honorary Chairman, Critical Areas Program; Dennis W. Wolkoff, TNC Regional Vice President; Leslie J. Mehrhoff, State Biologist, DEP; Stanley Pac, Commissioner, DEP; Dr. Hugo Thomas, Director, Natural Resources Center, DEP; Alexander S. Gardner, Connecticut Chapter Chairman, TNC; W. Kent Olson, Executive Director, Connecticut Chapter, TNC. Not pictured but present were: Marilyn Cruz, Assistant to the Governor, and David P. Warren, Director, Connecticut Critical Areas Program, TNC.

Photo by Thomas Giroir.

increasing their activity.

The joint agreement with DEP follows three years of cooperative research and cordial negotiation, and it puts into effect one of 43 recommendations of the Governor's Heritage Task Force, chaired by Professor Terry Tondro, University of Connecticut School of Law.

Chairman Gardner offered the trustees' sincere thanks to: Governor O'Neill and his administrative aide, Marilyn Cruz; Commissioner Stanley Pac, Dr. Hugo Thomas, Leslie J. Mehrhoff, Diane Mayerfield, and Nancy Murray of DEP; Dr. Robert Jenkins, Dr. Hardy Weiting, Dr. Larry Master, and John Cook of the Conservancy's staff; Professor Tondro and the Heritage Task Force; the National Audubon Society, Marshal Case, vice president; Niles Helmbolt, Robin Hoehn, Kenneth Locklin, Jeff Dunso, Larry Friedman, and Frank Dlugokinski, of the Hartford Representative Office of Equator Bank, Ltd.; and finally to the Chapter staff, who negotiated the several agreements needed to establish the Data Base.



W. Kent Olson
Executive Director

GOVERNOR NAMED HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF CRITICAL AREAS PROGRAM

Governor William A. O'Neill has accepted the Honorary Chairmanship of the Connecticut Critical Areas Program. In his acceptance speech, he also announced the establishment of the Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base:

"It has been a pleasure for me to meet with the members of The Nature Conservancy, and I am proud to accept the Honorary Chairmanship of the Connecticut Critical Areas Program. This innovative program will be of invaluable assistance both in identification of rare and endangered species and habitats, as well as providing a permanent data bank that can be used by all concerned with protecting and preserving the natural beauty of Connecticut.

"We are proud of our record of environmental protection in Connecticut. There is a need for continued vigilance to maintain the gains that we have made, and to accomplish even more. I commend The Nature Conservancy for working with the Department of Environmental Protection and the corporate community in their efforts to preserve our natural heritage. The addition of the Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base will enhance the services already available in our state.

"It is a privilege for me to present Certificates of Special Recognition [awarded by The Nature Conservancy] to Dr. Hugo Thomas and Leslie Mehrhoff of the State Department of Environmental Protection, who are being honored for their outstanding contributions in gathering

information for the establishment of the Data Base. This information will be used as a guide for both preservation and development in an effort to reduce conflict and enable our state to progress in a manner that is environmentally acceptable.

"On behalf of all the citizens of Connecticut, I extend congratulations to The Nature Conservancy, Commissioner Pac, and the Department of Environmental Protection for their achievements and thank them for their ongoing efforts helping to improve the quality of life in our state."



The Conservancy's David Warren welcomes Governor William O'Neill as Honorary Chairman of the Connecticut Critical Areas Program. Chapter Executive Director Ken Olson and TNC Regional Vice President Dennis Wolkoff look on.

Photo by Thomas Giroir.

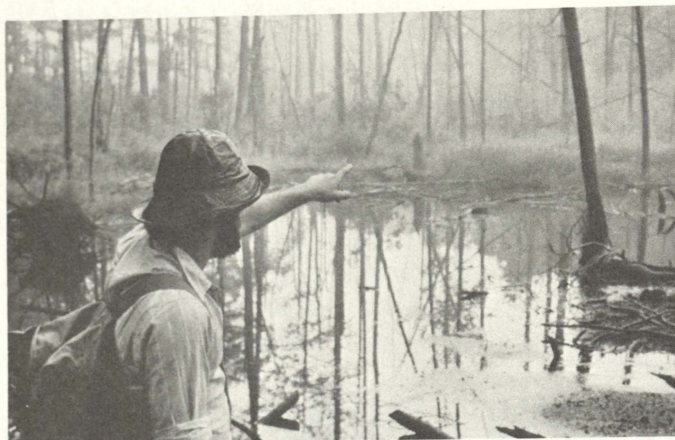
CONSERVANCY HELPS ACHIEVE STATE TASK FORCE GOAL

On January 6, Professor Terry Tondro, Chairman of the Governor's Task Force for the Preservation of Heritage in Connecticut, issued this statement:

"On February 9, 1982, the Heritage Task Force, appointed by Governor Grasso, presented its report to Governor O'Neill. Senator Richard Schneller and I joined with scores of other people from the public and private sectors in making the presentation at the Old State House.

"Among the 43 recommendations was that a computerized inventory system be established to catalogue the state's natural heritage. I'm pleased now to speak for the task force in applauding DEP, The Nature Conservancy and National Audubon Society in achieving this important objective. That so many private dollars are being dedicated to this joint program is an especially significant accomplishment.

"The Governor's Heritage Task Force looks forward to the implementation of other recommendations from the report to preserve Connecticut's cultural, historical and natural heritage. And we hope that other public and private collaborations, such as that between the Conservancy and the state, will ensue."



A large beaver pool on Moore Brook. The brook provides habitat for mammals such as river otter and Eastern coyote.

OUTDOOR LIFE MAGAZINE HONORS THE CONSERVANCY

The Nature Conservancy has been designated the 1983 recipient of the prestigious "Outdoor Life Conservation Award," by *Outdoor Life* magazine.

"... it seems more timely than ever that The Nature Conservancy, a group that has shown itself to be the national leader in preserving the best remaining parcels of natural America, receives the honor this year," said Mr. Clare Conley, Editor-in-Chief of *Outdoor Life*. TNC President William D. Blair, Jr. accepted the award at a ceremony in the Capitol Building, Washington, D.C.

Outdoor Life, a Times Mirror Magazines publication with a monthly readership of over five million, has for the past 86 years led a campaign to stress the need to defend America's natural resources from waste and destruction and to emphasize the importance of habitat conservation.

TNC BOOKS – ORDER BLANK

- ☐ Please send me _____ copies of *Country Walks in Connecticut: A Guide to The Nature Conservancy Preserves*.

Non-Members—\$8.47 per book

Members—\$7.40 per book

(includes \$1.00 for postage/handling)

- ☐ Please send me _____ copies of *The Connecticut Land Trust Handbook*

\$14.95 per copy (includes postage/handling)

- ☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Name _____

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Please send order form and check to The Nature Conservancy, CT Chapter, P.O. Box MMM, Wesleyan Station, Middletown, CT 06457.

Prices include 7½% Conn. sales tax.

About Capital Gifts

The Critical Areas Program comprises land acquisition, scientific inquiry, management of preserves, and administrative costs. We encourage capital donors, when possible, to give to the Connecticut Critical Areas Program without further restricting their contributions, so that no essential need will be unmet. If, however, a donor chooses to earmark a large contribution for a specific component of the Critical Areas Program, we will be pleased to honor the request. If a surplus should occur in the specified account, the surplus will be applied to other needs under the Critical Areas Program.

About Operating Gifts

Member dues, Acorn contributions, Corporate Associate gifts, and donations to the Chapter's spring and fall appeals support Chapter operations. Without these important contributions, the Conservancy would not be able to negotiate for land or keep the office doors open.

We hope that Conservancy members will, whenever possible, continue to support both needs—through major gifts to capital programs and through regular donations to Chapter operations.

HOW TO MULTIPLY YOUR DONATION . . . PAINLESSLY

Many corporations have matching gift programs for their employees. If you work for a company listed below, your employer (or its foundation) can match your contribution to The Nature Conservancy.

If your company has a matching gifts program and is not listed, why not see if the Conservancy qualifies under the terms of the program? Perhaps your membership dues or contributions to a particular project could be matched, doubled, or tripled by your company.

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NORTHWEST WETLANDS PRESERVED

A conservation easement is a legal agreement in which a landowner cedes development rights but retains ownership of the land. The Conservancy has secured five separate conservation easements protecting more than 200 acres of calcareous wetlands in northwestern Connecticut, sites targeted for protection under the Connecticut Critical Areas Program.

Executive Director Ken Olson issued this statement: "Few people today will dispute that America's wetlands are among our most valuable natural resources. Our members and corporate supporters will be gratified to learn that through the Critical Areas Program several of Connecticut's most pristine and beautiful swamps have been protected permanently. The credit goes to David Warren, program director, and Susan Cooley, land steward, and former intern Julie Zickefoose, as well as to Caren Caljouw, John Cook, Cloyce Hedge, Tom Rawinski, and attorney Philip Tabas of our regional staff in Boston, and to Les Mehrhoff, State Biologist. Thanks are also owed attorneys Stuyvesant K. Bearns and William Morrill of Lakeville.

"Last, I want to thank again our members. Their dues and capital gifts have enabled the Conservancy to continue saving land and the living things that bring vitality and beauty to the Connecticut landscape. Ours is an exciting mission, and every Connecticut member shares in its success so far. I repeat—every Connecticut member."

MOORE BROOK WATERSHED

In Salisbury, three landowners gave perpetual easements protecting 193 acres of the Moore Brook watershed. Moore Brook runs for nearly three miles from Fisher Pond south to Spruce Swamp Creek and is considered to be one of Connecticut's best examples of a calcareous seepage swamp. The area lies above one of the largest aquifers in the upper Housatonic Valley. (An aquifer is an underground water supply.) The stream banks provide habitat for a number of Connecticut's rare and endangered plants, including the state's largest known population of *Petasites palmatus*, sweet coltsfoot.

Efforts to preserve Moore Brook began in May 1983, when several landowners led by Dr. Mary Alice White joined with the Conservancy and The Salisbury Association to encourage stream-side landowners to protect the watershed. By fall, Dr. White, Mr. Herbert Scoville, and Colonel Arnold Whitridge had granted easements covering 42, 48, and 93 acres respectively. The Connecticut Chapter is grateful to these people for their generosity and foresight. Thanks to them, much of the Moore Brook watershed will remain forever wild, benefitting the Town of Salisbury and adding to the Conservancy's portfolio of valuable lands.

The Conservancy has signed a cooperative manage-

ment agreement with The Salisbury Association, one of Connecticut's finest and most successful land trusts. The Association will help monitor the easements. Commented Graham Davidson, outgoing President of the Association, "We are very pleased to have a role in this important project and expect that local participation will help assure the long-term success of the preserve. We hope that other landowners along Moore Brook will join in protecting this resource." Both groups hope that as many as three miles of stream bank will be included when the assemblage of easements is complete.

CONSERVANCY PROTECTS BAUER WOODS

Guido F. Verbeck, Jr., in conjunction with Bettina F. Flannery and Stephanie V. Wakelin, have granted an easement on 60 acres of calcareous wetlands in Lakeville. The site was studied extensively during Summer 1982 by Caren Caljouw, then intern, now Director of the Conservancy's Massachusetts Registry Program. Caren



A 60-acre easement at Bauer Woods, Lakeville, was generously donated to the Conservancy from the estate of Bettina Verbeck.

identified at least 10 plants known to be rare or endangered in Connecticut and recommended Bauer Woods as one of the state's best examples of a sloping or hillside fen.

Chapter Vice Chairman Peter Neill said, "Bauer Woods is a splendid and permanent memorial to Bettina Verbeck, and we are extremely grateful to Mr. Verbeck, and family members Bettina Flannery and Stephanie Wakelin, for making such an outstanding contribution to the Conservancy."

EASEMENT DONATED AT BENTON HILL FEN

Last June, the Connecticut Chapter obtained an option from Albert Hartung to purchase 30 acres at Benton Hill Fen, Sharon. We also began discussions with landowners north and south of the parcel in order to guarantee preservation of other important acreage there. This fall, protection of the extreme southern tip of the wetland was made possible through a four-acre conservation easement given by Mrs. Adelaide Emory of Sharon. "The Chapter is very grateful to Mrs. Emory," said Dave Warren. "Because of her selflessness, protection of the southern end of Benton Hill Fen is assured, a real boost to our efforts to save the entire wetland."

At this writing, the Conservancy has not yet reached 50% of the \$150,000 goal. We extend our appreciation to those who have already made contributions or pledges, and we continue to seek major capital gifts as the option nears expiration this spring.

WHAT'S A CALCAREOUS WETLAND?

The Moore Brook watershed, Benton Hill Fen, and Bauer Woods are excellent examples of calcareous wetlands, sometimes called alkaline wetlands, among the most distinctive natural habitats still remaining in Connecticut. As the word calcareous suggests, these areas are underlain primarily by calcitic and dolomite marble—formed during the Paleozoic—part of the Great Northeastern Limebelt which extends from Lake Champlain south through western Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut and into New York.

Calcareous habitats are scarce in Connecticut because carbonate bedrock and surficial deposits are limited to the extreme west and northwestern sections of Connecticut, known as the Marble Valley Ecoregions (see map).

The soils there, rich in dissolved minerals such as calcium and magnesium and poor in other nutrients such as

nitrogen, are slightly acidic to neutral and are quite fertile. Thus many calcareous swamps have been cultivated out of existence and very few natural ones remain. In some instances, the remnants are threatened by runoff from fertilizers, or by grazing and draining.

The calciphilic (calcium-loving) plants that thrive in the harsh conditions of the wetlands have both state and regional significance. The orchids, for example, are rare throughout New England. Other flora, like the sedges, approach the northern or southern limits of their ranges in Connecticut.



Trollius laxus (spreading globe-flower).

Spreading globe-flower (*Trollius laxus*), a calciphile, is now extinct in many of its former habitats. A candidate for listing under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, this plant is rare throughout its range and grows in only four locations in Connecticut. It looks, ironically, like the common buttercup.

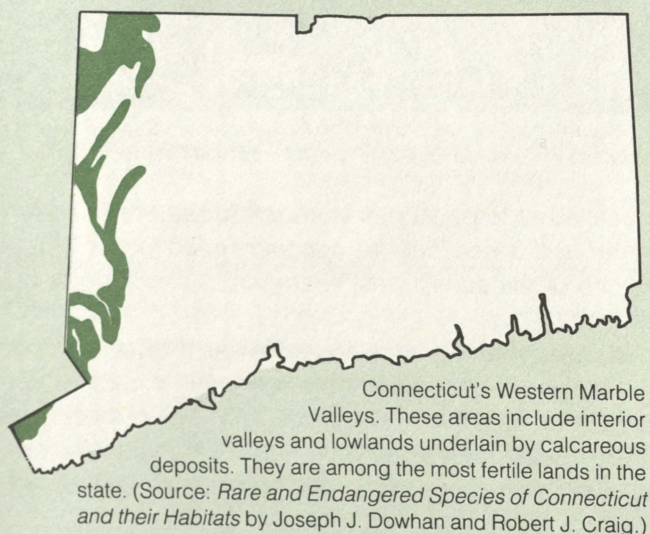
A FEN BY ANY NAME . . .

Three types of calcareous wetlands are found in Connecticut—sloping fens, basin fens, and seepage swamps—and often occur together. A fen is a naturally open peatland. Sloping, or hillside, fens are characterized by seeps and rivulets of cold alkaline spring water rising from calcareous glacial deposits. They commonly support an abundance of plant communities, owing to peculiarities of water chemistry, slope, and to past land-use practices such as mowing or grazing. Two good examples of sloping fens are Benton Hill and Bauer Woods, sections of which are now protected.

Basin fens are mostly level and tend to be larger than sloping fens, although still influenced by cold alkaline spring water. They frequently form the headwaters of streams. A high-quality example is Beeslick Pond, Salisbury, acquired by the Conservancy in 1977. Here, the gradation from shrub wetland to grass and sedge wetland and open water is quite evident as are a number of characteristic plant species including swamp birch and bog buckbean.

Calcareous seepage swamps are forested wetlands rich in organic material. Moore Brook is typical.

Besides being biologically significant, calcareous wetlands are often stunning in appearance. Like other kinds of swamps, they are marked by dead and decaying trees, sere brown sedges, and lonely sweeps of open water. In preserving them forever, the Conservancy preserves not only a type of natural community of enormous ecological importance, but we save as well some of Connecticut's wildest and most beautiful landscapes.



BUREAU CHANNELS 2,000 ACRES TO LAND TRUSTS

As the Connecticut Chapter of TNC focuses on the state's biologically rich areas through the Critical Areas Program, the Land Trust Service Bureau (LTSB) is helping to protect other important Connecticut resources. This work directly and indirectly benefits the Conservancy.

In the past two years, the Conservancy's LTSB has referred approximately three dozen landowners to qualified local trusts. This has resulted in the placing on the agendas of the land trusts more than 2,000 acres of land to be preserved, in turn enabling the Chapter to concentrate on sites of regional, statewide, or national significance.

In addition, the Service Bureau is working with other state environmental organizations to secure a permanent funding source for state purchase of open space.

LTSB also assists, when possible, with the protection of critical elements. It is, for example, currently participating in land trust efforts to expand West Rock Ridge State Park in Hamden, which hosts one of the richest concentrations of rare and endangered species in Connecticut.

The Service Bureau recently completed, in the black, three-and-one-half years of operation.

CORPORATE SUPPORT INVALUABLE

We take this opportunity to thank once again the businesses that annually have helped make possible the continued success of The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut:

CORPORATE ASSOCIATES (\$1,000 or more annually)

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The Travelers Insurance Companies
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United Technologies
The York Hill Trap Rock Quarry Company, Inc.

CORPORATE SPONSORS (\$500 or more annually)

Kaman Corporation
Middlesex Mutual Assurance Company



David P. Warren, Connecticut Critical Areas Program Director, presents photograph of ferruginous hawks to William F. Andrews, Chairman, President, and CEO of Scovill, Inc., in recognition of the company's important contributions as a Corporate Associate of the Conservancy.

VOLUNTEERS HELP MONITOR LAND

The Chapter owns 60 preserves. They are managed thanks to the vigilance of local preserve stewardship committee members, numbering close to 350 volunteers.

We also have partial responsibility for protecting another 100 properties. We hold conservation easements on 47 tracts which must be monitored annually. For the third consecutive year, Bob Miller of Orange has organized other volunteers who check on the land under Conservancy easement to see that it is kept in its natural state.

Further, the Chapter is responsible, generally through deed reverters, for watching over several thousand acres that we have transferred to other organizations. Conservancy volunteers, often in cooperation with land trust members, visit these parcels to ensure their proper stewardship. Carolie Evans of Guilford has spent December and January organizing those volunteer monitors.

This force of some two dozen volunteers supplements the work of our local preserve stewards and makes sure that the Conservancy upholds its responsibility to protect land forever.

AUTOGRAPHED PEACOCKS

The Peacocks of Baboquivari (Norton, 284 pp.) by Irma J. Fisk, illustrated by Louise Russell, is the memoir of a Conservancy volunteer. Mrs. Fisk spent five months banding birds at the TNC preserve in the Arizona high country. Her book, says John Updike, is a "brisk and sensitive medley of journal entries, letters to loved ones, and meditations on ecology and the human pilgrimage . . . as fresh and as tonic as a desert dawn."

Autographed copies are available for \$14.95 plus \$1.00 shipping per copy from Mrs. Virginia Bladen, Route 2, Box 240, Lyme, CT 06371. Proceeds support the Conservancy.

I NEVER THOUGHT OF GIVING THAT!

Many types of assets other than cash can be donated outright to The Nature Conservancy with substantial income tax advantages. The benefits are particularly attractive if the assets have been owned for more than a year. Examples are gifts of appreciated securities or real estate.

In both instances, you are eligible for an income tax deduction equal to the full present fair market value, with no capital gain on the appreciation. (With real estate, fair market value is determined by an independent appraisal, the cost of which is also deductible.) You may deduct up to 30% of your adjusted gross income in the year of the gift and may spread this deduction for up to five additional years if necessary.

And your gifts offer more than the immediate tax benefits. Since the proceeds from the sale of your assets will be used by the Conservancy to acquire important natural areas in Connecticut, you enjoy the added satisfaction of knowing that you helped to protect the best examples of this state's rapidly diminishing wild lands.

For further information about gifts of appreciated assets, and other non-cash gifts, like life insurance, please contact the Chapter office. Your inquiry will be treated in strict confidence.

WILL POWER

Through your will, you have the power to determine how your estate will be distributed. If you do not have a will, the state decides.

Yet almost 80 percent of all Americans die without wills.

Through a will, you can provide properly for your family and others you love. You can also perpetuate the work of The Nature Conservancy and other charitable organizations you strongly believe in.

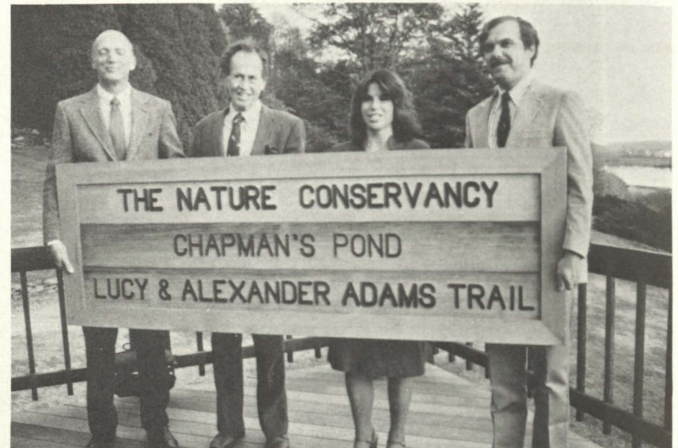
Information about including a bequest or devise to the Conservancy in your will is available through the Chapter office. All requests will be handled confidentially.

BARNES NATURE CENTER HIKE

Join us for a hike at the Barnes Memorial Nature Center on Saturday, March 10. We'll meet at the nature center at 10:00 a.m. and walk for about two hours through the woods, along a stream, across a bridge, up a steep hill, over a glacial esker, and more. Jon Guglietta, Director of the Bristol Regional Environmental Center, will lead. Please call the office (344-0716) if you would like to come, and we'll send you a map and directions.

LAND SALE BENEFITS CRITICAL AREAS

The Chapter recently sold property that was donated specifically for resale. The proceeds will go toward the Critical Areas Program. Said David Warren, Critical Areas Director, "We are grateful to the donors, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Houston, formerly of Middletown, Connecticut. This tradeland gift has generated income in six figures and will be used to buy ecologically sensitive land, conduct scientific investigations, and manage preserves. The generosity of the Houstons is an inspiration, and we hope that other Conservancy members will consider making similar gifts."



A ceremony was recently held at the East Haddam home of Bruce and Barbara McGhie to dedicate the Lucy and Alexander Adams Trail in the Cynthia B. Carlson Nature Preserve at Chapman's Pond. Displaying the trail sign are (left to right) Alexander Gardner, Chapter Chairman; Alexander Adams; Patricia Scanlon, District Conservationist, U.S. Soil Conservation Service; and W. Kent Olson, Chapter Executive Director. Adams, from Rowayton, is a past national president of the Conservancy and with his late wife, Lucy, a long-time volunteer and benefactor of The Nature Conservancy.

CHAPTER'S NEW ACORNS – 1983

A member becomes an Acorn by donating \$100 or more annually to Chapter operations to supplement dues.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard J. Agnew
Alexandra Foundation
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Dr. and Mrs. Henry Black
Mr. R. Allyn Budington
Mr. and Mrs. Dana Creel
Drs. Stuart and Judith Deglin
Mr. and Mrs. William Eddison
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Ms. Lynn Glaze
Mr. Samuel A. Green
The Greenwich Land Trust
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Mr. Royall Victor, III
Ms. Lindley K. Volkwein
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Our gratitude also goes to the many members who renewed their support as Acorns in 1983. Connecticut Acorns now number 254.